SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

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The European Energy Union is discussed at the University of Dundee

On 5 June 2018, the University of Dundee hosted a policy workshop titled - Towards the European Energy Union; In search of principles. The event was hosted by the University’s Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy.

Energy Charter Secretary-General, Dr Urban Rusnák presented on the importance of cooperation between the EU and non-EU actors. He highlighted that in today’s globalised world no energy policy could function in isolation. The Energy Charter can be viewed as a valuable tool to bridge the gap and foster cooperation between EU and non-EU states setting up the foundation for global energy governance.

Energy Charter Secretary-General meets the Petroleum Minister of Iran

On June 19 2018, Energy Charter Secretary-General, Ambassador Urban Rusnák, held a bilateral meeting with Iran’s Petroleum Minister, Mr Bijan Zangeneh, at the Ministry of Petroleum in Tehran. Minister Zanganeh and Ambassador Rusnák discussed the prospects for Iran’s deeper engagement in the Energy Charter Process. The meeting came within the framework of the Secretariat’s co-organisation of the 12th Tehran International Energy Conference on June 19-20 with the Iranian Ministry of Energy. Secretary-General Rusnák also took the opportunity of the visit to Iran to meet with other high level officials from the Iranian government.

Secretariat’s contribution to the 12th Tehran International Energy Conference

The Energy Charter Secretariat participated in the 12th edition of the International Energy Conference, which concluded successfully in Tehran. Having contributed speaker presentations to the previous two sequences of this major event on the Iranian calendar, in 2014 and 2016 respectively, the Secretariat’s involvement in this year’s event was upgraded to the status of co-organiser. Tehran’s International Energy Conference attracts hundreds of local as well as international participants, and is strongly supported by the Iranian Ministry of Energy, which covers the country’s power sector. The theme of this year’s conference in Tehran was: Improving the energy efficiency of households suffering from energy poverty cannot only reduce the energy bills of affected consumers but can also lower energy system costs and prices for all energy consumers, stimulate job creation, improve energy security and deliver many other co-benefits. Highly motivated to improve societal welfare, sustainability and economic prosperity, Romania has placed energy poverty as a key theme of its agenda under the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference this year.”
was Innovative Systems in the Energy-Water-Environment Nexus.

Recently appointed Minister of Energy of Iran, H.E. Reza Ardakanian, opened the conference with a key note speech, which was followed by other high level addresses from Dr Christoph Frei, Secretary General and CEO of World Energy Council, and Ambassador Urban Rusnák, Energy Charter Secretary-General. One of the core elements of this year’s conference was the high-level panel convened by the Secretariat, which took place following the key note speeches and addressed the topic of ‘the changing nature of energy investments in an era of climate change and energy transition’.

7th OPEC International Seminar

The 7th OPEC International Seminar took place on 20-21 June 2018 in Vienna, Austria, and gathered numerous ministers from oil-producing and oil-consuming nations, as well as heads of intergovernmental organisations and chiefs executives of national and international oil companies. This edition was the first seminar held since OPEC and non-OPEC signed the ‘Declaration of Cooperation’ in December 2016.

Energy Charter Secretary-General, Dr Urban Rusnák joined Session V entitled “World Economy and the Future of Oil”. He raised the importance of investment protection in the energy sector and the role of the technologically-neutral Energy Charter Treaty as a means of promoting energy investments during an era of energy transition.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Knowledge sharing with African countries


Alleviating energy poverty through energy efficiency - focus of Bucharest International Energy Charter Forum

This year’s annual Forum, jointly organised by the International Energy Charter and the Government of Romania, brought together high-level politicians, officials and technical experts from Member and Observer countries of the International Energy Charter including Malta, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Jordan and China.

Click here to learn more about the vacancy.
The Forum aimed to inspire action on sharing the best solutions concerning financing possibilities and the best practices used in the implementation of energy efficiency programs and projects, particularly in low income areas. Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák opened the Forum’s discussions alongside H.E. Anton Anton and H.E. Iulian-Robert Tudorache, Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference, both from the Ministry of Energy, Romania.

Signature of Memorandum of Understanding with ADA University

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the ADA University (Baku, Azerbaijan) and the Energy Charter Secretariat in line with its previous practice. The aim of the memorandum is to strengthen cooperation through joint activities, promote knowledge related to the Energy Charter Treaty, energy policy and investment protection, also to support knowledge sharing on Energy Charter related matters.

Energy Charter reviews energy efficiency in Montenegro

Under the auspices of the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA) and at the request of Montenegro, the International Energy Charter embarked upon a three day mission from the 12 to 14 June with the objective of conducting an in-depth energy efficiency review of Montenegro. The in-depth Energy Efficiency Reviews analyse the broad economic and energy context of the country, patterns of energy use, energy efficiency policies and institutional frameworks. The fact-finding mission provided an opportunity to discuss issues and challenges with stakeholders of the country’s energy sector and will provide the basis for the recommendations to be presented in a report for adoption by the Energy Charter Conference at its annual meeting later this year.

The 7th Global Forum on Energy Security “Belt and Road Initiative”

On the 18-19 June 2018, the 7th Global Forum on Energy Security “Belt and Road Initiative, Global Energy Governance and Innovation” was held in Beijing. The forum was organised by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in partnership with the International Energy Charter, the International Energy Forum, the US Energy Security Council and other expert organisations. During the opening remarks, Energy Charter Assistant Secretary-General, Dr Masami Nakata emphasised the importance of state-to-state dialogue and creating such a platform for cooperation between countries.
**Energy Investment Risk Assessment – Jordan’s Participation**

A delegation from the Energy Charter Secretariat was hosted by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in Jordan on 20-21 June 2018. The country is taking part in the new publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA), which will be launched on 1 October 2018 in Brussels. The mission contributes to the development of the country profile of Jordan. EIRA 2018 is expected to contain 30 country profiles.

The delegation, headed by Mr David Kramer from the investment unit and Mr Can Ogutcu from the expansion unit, also visited stakeholders from the private sector and legal practitioners. The stakeholders provided valuable input to the country profile in order to further improve the energy investment and regulatory environment.

**Washington World Gas Conference 2018**

The World Gas Conference, a triennial event conducted by the International Gas Union, is one of the most important gatherings of policymakers, buyers, sellers, and experts in the global gas industry. The Energy Charter Secretariat, represented by Dr Ernesto Bonafé, Head of the Expansion Unit, was invited to speak in the panel devoted to “Best practices in governance and regulation.” One of the issues widely discussed at the conference was the implication of current global trade disputes on the gas market, which according to the International Energy Agency (IEA) is expected to grow by an average of 1.6 per cent a year until 2023. The International Energy Charter appears as a suitable benchmark of market-based principles to inspire a fair and attractive investment climate in the natural gas industry and the energy sector in general in its path to a sustainable energy future.